

THE PENTAGON'S BLACK GUARD

The anti-Cuban hysteria in the United States has been brought to fever pitch. It is no longer a matter of inflammatory speeches in the Senate, or of appeals for a sea and air blockade — the Pentagon is organizing "Cuban units" as part of the U.S. armed forces.

Washington propaganda is trying to justify these preparations for aggression by claiming that Cuba is a menace to United States security. That is pure fiction, but the danger of U.S. aggression against Cuba is very real.

It is spelled out in this series, which traces the preparations for armed attack from the overthrow of the Batista dictatorship to the present time and describes the part played by Cuban counter-revolutionary émigrés.

ON THE NIGHT of August 24, the people of Havana were awakened by the boom of cannon and the rat-tat of machine guns. Peering into the night, they could see the outlines of a high-speed launch off the shore of the capital directing its fire on the Miramar district. A few days later the vessel was identified off the Florida coast. The pirate attack had been organized by the Revolutionary Student Directorate, one of the many counter-revolutionary organizations of Cuban émigrés, who have found protection and assistance in the United States.

The raiders went unpunished — the State Department merely reproached them for having so noisily manifested their "patriotic sentiments." Encouraged by this, the organizers held a press conference in Venezuela at which Juan Salvat, their "military co-ordinator," announced that his group would continue its piratic attacks: "Any Communist-flagged ship, regardless of nationality, seen in Cuban territorial waters, will be regarded as a military target and will be attacked without previous warning."

World opinion was incensed. On September 9 another raid was made on Havana. This time a white two-engine ship shelled the Polish merchantman New Lane and two Cuban merchant vessels, the San Blas and San

Pascual. A secret émigré organization calling itself "Alpha 66" issued a communiqué in Miami saying that it was responsible for the raid and that it had set up headquarters in Puerto Rico, the U.S. colony Washington hypocritically designates as a "free Commonwealth associated with the United States."

At about the same time, one of the counter-revolutionary chieftains in Miami, Miro Cardona, urged Washington to set up a "de facto government in exile" on American soil.

This rapid increase of émigré activity is a direct consequence of the unbridled anti-Cuban campaign now being conducted in the United States. There has been a regular orgy of sabre-rattling by Pentagon generals and arrogant speechifying by Congressmen. The Cuban counter-revolutionaries are doing their bit too — they want to prove that the money spent on them is not being wasted.

For nearly four years now the U.S. ruling element has been encouraging, subsidizing and arming this émigré scum for all manner of provocations against the Republic of Cuba. But until quite recently Washington did not care to advertise its connection with émigré groups. Now it has adopted a new tactic and so-called "Cuban units" are being incorporated into the U.S. armed forces. This is tantamount to an open admission by the Pentagon

that, in conjunction with the émigrés, it is preparing armed intervention against the Island of Freedom.

How It Began

In the early hours of January 1, 1959, a Cuban C-54 plane landed at Jacksonville airport in Florida. In it were Ruben Batista, son of the deposed dictator; Francisco Tabernilla, Batista's chief of staff; Pilar Garcia, Batista's police chief; his son Irinaldo Garcia, Batista's intelligence chief; General Luis Robaina, Commander-in-Chief of the Land Forces; Brigadier Carlos Tabernilla, Air Force Chief of Staff — in short, the high command of Batista's army. Another C-54 landed in New Orleans, bringing members of Batista's cabinet and high-placed officials. Four more planes landed that evening at Key West, Florida, and a Cuban warship cast anchor at the U.S. naval base.

By this time news of the overthrow of one of the cruelest dictatorial regimes had spread throughout the world. Batista and his gang looked to their American masters for refuge and aid.

The U.S. immigration authorities saw to it that the newcomers did not have to go through quarantine camps or long customs clearing. Washington announced it was giving them the same "traditional asylum" that it ex-